

MELALEUCA ENTERPRISES

Michelle McKemey B.Sc. (Hons I)

Curriculum Vitae



@mmckemey



@MichelleMcKemey



Areas of expertise: Ecology, environmental assessment & management
Collaborative management with Indigenous groups
Natural resource management & conservation
Sustainable agriculture
Education & interpretation
Writing & editing

Education: PhD Candidate, University of New England (2014 - 2019)
Fire ecology and Indigenous natural resource management

Bachelor of Science (Honours Class 1)
La Trobe University (1999)
Honours thesis – *Cross-cultural natural resource management: Aboriginal attitudes and management of feral animals around the Arafura Wetlands, NT*

Bachelor of Science (Environmental science)
University of Queensland (1998)

Career overview: Michelle McKemey (nee Higgins) has studied and worked in the field of environmental science for 20+ years. She worked for local, state and federal government for many years before establishing the environmental consultancy business, Melaleuca Enterprises, in 2008. She has worked on environmental projects in NSW, Queensland and the Northern Territory, often working alongside Aboriginal people to ensure the conservation of both natural and cultural resources. She has experience working in the agricultural, conservation and tourism industries.

EMPLOYMENT PROFILE

2008 – present: **Founder and Director,**
Melaleuca Enterprises Environmental Consultancy Services, New England Tablelands NSW
As the Founder and Director of Melaleuca Enterprises, I manage all of the environmental consultancy work, including project management and business operations. Key projects are listed on page 3.

2016 – present: **Co-Director,**
McKemey and Co. Agribusiness, New England Tablelands NSW
Decision making related to business and farm management for the 2,080 acre family grazing properties 'Willow Park' and 'Karingal' running 9,000 DSE of fine wool merino ewes, cross-bred prime lambs and beef cattle.

2013: **Community Grant Assessor,**
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (Australian Government), Northern Branch
This role required assessment of applications under the Federal Government's Caring for Our Country and Biodiversity Fund grant programs. Local knowledge and critical thinking were required in order to assess the feasibility, environmental outcomes and value for money of proposed projects.

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PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

2008: **Catchment Officer (PVP and Projects),
Border Rivers Gwydir Catchment Management Authority, Inverell NSW**

I worked with landholders to develop Property Vegetation Plans (PVPs) and advise on the management of native vegetation in accordance with the Native Vegetation Act 2003. This required the ability to learn and use the customised software PADACS, undertake data collection on vegetation and habitat values in the field and to liaise with internal and external stakeholders.

2008 - 2010: **Discovery Ranger,
National Parks and Wildlife Service, Armidale NSW**

In this position I developed and implemented activities to inspire and inform people about National Parks. The position required local knowledge of natural and cultural heritage, the ability to captivate an audience, physical fitness and practical outdoor skills. Some of the activities included hosting specialist groups, spotlighting tours, nature walks, relaxation in the park and junior ranger programs.

2003 – 2008: **Ecologist (2005 – 2008), A/Program Coordinator- Biodiversity (2007), Environmental
Research Officer (2003),
Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Sunshine Coast Qld**

As acting Program Coordinator I supervised ten officers and coordinated the multi-disciplinary projects of the biodiversity team. As an Ecologist I undertook environmental planning and policy, ecological assessments and managed restoration projects. My main projects included the Maroochy Pest Management Plan, Maroochy Biodiversity Strategy, ecological assessments of conservation land and major infrastructure projects, coordination of fauna projects (koala mapping, marine turtle monitoring) and environmental education projects. As an Environmental Research Officer I undertook the water quality monitoring program which involved collecting water samples, analysing results and developing an education program as well as supervising trainees and volunteers. During my employment with Council I received a 'Business Award' (2007) and 'Partnerships Award' (2005) and the Maroochy Biodiversity Strategy was a national Banksia Award finalist in 2008.

2003 – 2005: **Kakadu National Park Officer,
Department of Environment and Heritage / Northern Land Council, Jabiru NT**

I undertook consultation and facilitated decision making between the Aboriginal Traditional Owners, Kakadu Board of Management and Kakadu National Park management on issues such as natural and cultural resource management, tourism, business development, mining and research. Projects included the Kakadu Plan of Management, Kakadu Shared Vision for Tourism, Twin Falls/Jim Jim Falls area planning, recruitment and environmental rehabilitation. Through this position I developed a thorough understanding of national park management, natural and cultural resource management practices throughout the Northern Territory and how to work effectively with Aboriginal people. This position required good communication skills, confidence and integrity.

2001 – 2002: **Volunteer,
Endangered species projects in Africa and Asia**

At Oxford University's Budongo Forest Research Station in Uganda, I contributed to a study on the effects of landscape fragmentation on wildlife, including chimpanzees, through social surveys. In Namibia, I helped to radio-track the endangered black-faced impala in Etosha National Park and supervised trainees in constructing a remote field camp and undertaking scientific surveys on the Skeleton Coast. In Malaysia I worked with researchers undertaking transect surveys through regrowth rainforest to determine the impacts on wildlife after logging. In Borneo I worked at the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in animal care. I have also worked as a volunteer at Australia Zoo on the Sunshine Coast.

2000: **Project Officer (Research),
Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism, Brisbane Qld**

I provided executive support to the CEO and managed the Brisbane office of the CRC for Sustainable Tourism. I developed a communication program through contributions to Green Globe News, scientific journal articles, organising conferences and preparing keynote speaker presentations for international conferences. I undertook research into the environmental, social and cultural impacts of tourism and the development of indigenous tourism.

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KEY PROJECTS

Property Planning Competition 2014, 2016, 2017 & 2018- coordinating the Schools Property Planning Competition field day and studies for 150 high school agriculture students for the NT LLS,

Aboriginal Community Grants Program- Coordination and assessment of grants for Northern Tablelands (NT) LLS

Threatened Ecological Communities on Travelling Stock Routes- writing, coordinating and installing interpretive signs on the values of TSRs around Bellata-Millie-Gurley, NSW for North West (NW) Local Land Services (LLS)

Celebrity Species- fact sheets on iconic threatened fauna species & **Watch out for these Weeds**- brochures on weed education, NW LLS

Brigalow Nandewar Biolink Project Planning Support and Resource Development- coordination and completion of educational resources for the Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (BRG CMA),

Plants of Gwydir Shire- editing and co-authoring a field guide on native plants of the Gwydir Shire for BRG CMA,

Kakadu-Vulnerability to climate change impacts- a report to the Australian Government Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, completed in conjunction with BMT WBM Pty Ltd,

Ecological Character Description for the Kakadu National Park Ramsar Site- a report to the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, completed with BMT WBM Pty Ltd,

Ecological Character Description for the Cobourg Peninsula Ramsar Site- a report to the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, completed with BMT WBM Pty Ltd,

Bush Tucker, Boomerangs and Bandages: Traditional Aboriginal Plant Use in the Border Rivers and Gwydir Catchments - compiling an Indigenous plant use book for the BRG CMA,

Education Packages (3) for: Deriah and Terry Hie Hie Aboriginal Areas, Narran Lake Nature Reserve- school excursion and visitor education packages prepared for National Parks and Wildlife, Narrabri region NSW

Expert Witness & Review of Environmental Factors reports for Tenterfield Shire Council

Indigenous Site Protection Project commissioned by the BRG CMA,

Biodiversity Planning for New England Graziers commissioned by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, completed in conjunction Agricultural Information and Monitoring Services,

Establishment and Monitoring of Conservation Agreements and Wildlife Refuges with the NSW DECC, with Conservation Agreements established around Glen Innes, Inverell, Tenterfield, Tamworth & Armidale,

Vegetation and Soil Field Survey of the Barakula State Forest for the University of New England,

Threatened species assessment projects for proposed developments in Armidale and Inverell,

Water quality monitoring for private enterprise & **On-site waste water management plans**,

Koala habitat assessments, and

State of the Environment reports for Glen Innes Severn & Tenterfield Shire Councils, 2008-2017.

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SELECTED PAPERS & PUBLICATIONS

McKemey M. & Patterson T. (in publication) *WINBA = FIRE: Developing a Fire and Seasons Calendar for Wattleridge Indigenous Protected Area*. Proceedings of the *Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate 2017 Conference*, University of New England, NSW.

McKemey M. (2017) *2017 Local Land Services Schools Property Planning Competition Manual 'Waratah'*. Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, NSW Government.

Coleman K., **McKemey M.** & P. Coleman (2017) *Narran Lake Nature Reserve Education Package*, Narran Lake Nature Reserve Co-Management Committee, NSW.

Elone T., Patterson L. & **M. McKemey** (2017) *Vegetation management at Wattleridge Indigenous Protected Area, New England Tableland, NSW*. In: Keith (2017) *Australian Vegetation* Cambridge University Press, U.K., p. 104.

McKemey, M. (2016) *State of the Environment: Comprehensive Report 2012-16 Tenterfield Shire Council* Melaleuca Enterprises, Guyra NSW.

Elone T., Patterson T. & **M. McKemey** (2015) *Weeds, feral animals, fire and research at Wattleridge and Tarriva Kurrukun Indigenous Protected Areas, Australia*. In: Ens, E., Fisher, J. and Costello, O. (Eds) (2015) *Indigenous people and invasive species: Perceptions, management, challenges and uses*. IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management Community Report.

McKemey, M. (2015) *Swift Parrot; Regent Honeyeater; Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby; Black-striped Wallaby* (fact sheets). North West Local Land Services, NSW Government.

McKemey, M. (2014) *Watch out for these Weeds*. North West Local Land Services, NSW Government.

McKemey, M. (2013) *Managing Native Vegetation: How to look after your native vegetation and revegetate your land* BRG CMA Inverell NSW.

McKemey M, Coleman K. & P. Coleman (2013) *Deriah Aboriginal Area Education Package*, NPWS NSW, Narrabri region.

McKemey M, Coleman K. & P. Coleman (2013) *Terry Hie Hie Aboriginal Area Education Package*, NPWS NSW, Narrabri.

Hodge, J. & **M. McKemey** (2013) *Plants of the Gwydir Shire Volume 1* NT LLS Inverell NSW.

McKemey, M. & Harry White (2011) *Bush Tucker, Boomerangs and Bandages: Traditional Aboriginal Plant Use in the Border Rivers and Gwydir Catchments* BRG CMA Inverell NSW. (Reprinted 25,000 copies)

Drummond, S., Raphael, L., **McKemey, M.**, Visser, J., Richardson, D. & G. Fisk (2011) *Ecological Character Description for Cobourg Peninsula Ramsar Site* BMT WBM Pty Ltd Brisbane, Queensland.

Léger, L., Ward, M., Andrews, M., Richardson, D., Stewart, J., **M. McKemey** & J. Robinson (2010) *Kakadu-Vulnerability to climate change impacts*. A report to the Australian Government Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

Richardson, D., Fisk, G., Ward, M., Agnew, L., **McKemey, M.** and M. Billerbeck (2010) *Ecological Character Description for Kakadu National Park Ramsar Site* WBM BMT Pty Ltd Brisbane Queensland.

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de Lacy, T., Scott, A., Worboys, G. and **M. Higgins** (2000) *Sustainable Tourism for Consumers, Companies and Communities*. In: Proceedings of the 3rd Queensland Environmental Conference: Sustainable Environmental Solutions for Industry and Government; a Focus of Sound, Practical and Economically Viable Solutions for Industry and Government; pages: 273-279. Gaul, Keron (Editor). Brisbane, Qld.: Environmental Engineering Society (Queensland Chapter), 2000.

Higgins, M. (1999) *Indigenous Natural Resource Management: Attitudes and Activities Relating to Feral Animals*. Honours thesis, La Trobe University Melbourne.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Runner up, *Three Minute Thesis* competitions: 2016 & 2017, University of New England (UNE)
- *Australian Postgraduate Award*, funded by the Australian Government through UNE
- *Rural Fire Service Association PhD research project sponsorship*
- *Nature Conservation Council of NSW Postgraduate Top-Up Scholarship*
- *Two-way Knowledge sharing for Better Natural Resource Management*. Community Action Grant funded by the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and the National Landcare Programme
- *Keith and Dorothy Mackay Postgraduate Travelling Scholarship*
- *Ecological Society of Australia conference travel grant*

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